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# HOUSING GROUP FORCES SHAKEUP

## HEAD OF BUREAU OF BUILDING INSPECTION LEAVES OFFICE AFTER STORMY YEAR

by Randy Shaw

Following nearly a year of protests and demonstrations by housing activists Bureau of Building Inspection Superintendent Larry Litchfield resigned his post in late November.

Litchfield has been subject to widespread public criticism because the Bureau has refused to enforce the Housing Code against slumlords and at the same time harassed many property owners for the most minor code violations.

One Mission District owner was cited for storing a sleeping bag in her basement and for the structural integrity of flower boxes. Yet her property is a short walk from several rodent-infested hotels which the Bureau has not even inspected.

Not only were the inspectors focusing attention on the wrong things, the Bureau's resources were funneled in the wrong direction: instead of hiring more inspectors, Litchfield nearly tripled the number of highly paid "assistant superintendents" (during a period of declining construction activity). He also secured separate office space for them and for himself, forcing other Bureau staff to conduct business in offices declared unsafe by Cal OSHA.

As well as his diversion of funds from inspectors and clerical staff to overpaid bureaucrats, Litchfield's regular increasing of fees for building and home remodeling made him unpopular. But no one launched a full-fledged campaign against his operation of the Bureau until December, 1992, when the Coalition on Code Enforcement was founded.

The founders were: St. Peter's Housing Committee, Mission Housing Development Corporation, the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, the San Francisco Tenants Union, Old St. Mary's Housing Committee, North of Market Planning Coalition, and the Coalition for Low Income Housing.

The Coalition on Code Enforcement began its public campaign with a press conference on December 21, 1992, in front of an apartment building at 3317 Mission Street.

Many of the building's units had no heat; but although the BBI was required by City law to issue a criminal citation to the landlord, it had not.

After the press toured the heatless apartments, the party proceeded to the Chronicle Hotel at 936 Mission St. There the Chronicle's operator bragged that "only 25 percent" of the hotel's 150 rooms lacked heat.

Finally, the press viewed a building at 1286 South Van Ness, where the bedroom ceiling was about to collapse. The BBI had cited the

landlord three years earlier for a leaking roof but never followed up on the violation. The Bureau's failure allowed the leak to continue for years.

Despite the media's documentation of the Bureau's refusal to enforce the City's heat law and other housing code violations, Litchfield continued to be lenient toward "heat cheats."

So the Coalition's next step was to schedule a public meeting at the Mission's Everett School on February 9 to have Litchfield defend his policies.

In a performance where he exhibited vir-

tually no knowledge of either the Housing Code or the code enforcement process, Litchfield promised to crack down on all heat cheats from that night onward. (Apparently, amnesty was granted to all prior violators.)

That night, he sent an inspector to the Chronicle Hotel, who of course found widespread heat violations. The landlord was finally given one criminal citation (which, after he agreed to provide heat, was later dismissed by the District Attorney). The Bureau continued to refrain from seeking civil penalties against the Chronicle's operator, or any other intentional and knowing violator of City heat laws.

Angered by Litchfield's obvious indifference to the plight of tenants living in substandard housing, the Coalition's next action was to take over Litchfield's office. On February 23, over 100 people stormed his Fox Plaza headquarters to demand that the Bureau fulfill its legal duty to enforce the Housing Code.

Litchfield, however, was out at a meeting for the day, so the crowd moved to the office of the top official responsible for the Bureau, Chief Administrative Officer Rudy Nothenberg.

(The BBI is governed by the CAO's office and not the mayor.)

As a chanting crowd formed outside Nothenberg's City Hall office, dozens of police appeared in riot gear. The police accompanied the crowd to the Tenderloin's notorious Dahlia Hotel, along with the media and Director of Public Works Vitaly Troyan.

Last August, the Bureau had cited the Dahlia for life-threatening code violations, including rat infestation, but six months had passed and the landlord had done nothing. During this time, however, the Department of Social Services had continued to pay the Dahlia to house homeless welfare recipients, since the Bureau had never told the DSS about its August inspection.

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR



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## INSPECTORS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Faced with the Dahlia's decrepitude, Troyan conceded to the assembled crowd that the Dahlia was not adequate housing. When he returned to his office, he checked the Dahlia's record and learned that the Bureau had simply ignored the hotel's failure to comply with the August citation; it had not even notified the Dahlia that it had failed to correct the violations within the prescribed time. Thus, the Dahlia proved that ignoring BBI citations will make them go away.

The Coalition's public exposure of the Bureau's "Dahlia-gate" led to a legislative action known as the "citation ordinance." This City ordinance, introduced by Supervisor Kaufman, would impose fines against landlords who had failed to correct violations within 30 days. On March 17, the Board of Supervisors held a hearing on this legislation. Because senior housing inspector Louise Kimball had stated in a meeting that she "had not seen a rat in ten years as an inspector," an attending Coalition member wore a rat suit. Hundreds of tenants filled the Supervisors' chambers with vivid testimony of the Bureau's refusal to enforce the Housing Code.

The Bureau responded by digging in its heels and substituting promises for action. Clearly, a major obstacle to early and effective enforcement was the Bureau's refusal to follow the time requirements of its own Building Code.

In late March the Tenderloin Housing Clinic filed suit in Superior Court to force the Bureau to comply with its own laws. The suit, *St. Peter's Housing Committee vs. Litchfield*, was designed to ensure that abatement hearings (hearings to determine why an owner has not repaired violations noted during a building inspection) were held within 70 days of the initial citation; the Bureau was typically delaying for six to nine months, and in some cases hearings did not occur for years.

The Bureau responded to the suit with declarations from Litchfield and Kimball accusing the Clinic of trying to destroy code enforcement. Fortunately, the Court saw through BBI's rhetoric and ordered the Bureau to comply with the Building Code's 70-day timeline. As a result of this lawsuit, the code enforcement process has more than tripled in speed.

By the end of May, Litchfield and the Bureau had been dragged kicking and screaming into making many changes demanded by the Coalition. They had finally agreed to conduct room-by-room inspections of City-funded hotels, to immediately send inspection reports to city housing referral agencies and to install a computerized code enforcement tracking system within the year. (Such a system had been urged in the City's 1989 manage-

ment audit of the Bureau, but the recommendation was ignored).

Yet it was clear to the Coalition that Litchfield and the Bureau were not interested in Housing Code enforcement and viewed the Coalition, not slumlords, as the problem. It was also clear that the Bureau still preferred to expend resources on the more lucrative activity of harassing homeowners seeking to remodel kitchens or build decks. The Coalition thus decided to support a City Charter amendment to take the control of the Bureau away from Litchfield and his fellow bureaucrats and give it to a public commission. The commission proposal has drawn nearly unanimous support from groups representing tenants, homeowners, landlords, and residential builders and is slated to appear on the November 1994 ballot.

Kaufman's March citation ordinance had a rocky trip to passage. Although the fines contained in the measure were less than for parking in a bus zone, the measure was delayed for months, and then effectively killed by the Board of Supervisors in August. After a fatal fire at the Folsom Hotel in September led to widespread press coverage of the Bureau's dysfunctional code enforcement process, Supervisor Kaufman revived the ordinance.

The fire highlighted the need to impose financial penalties early in the code enforcement process as a key strategy for deterrence.

The citation ordinance became law in December 1993. Fittingly, the only groups that ultimately opposed the measure were the Department of Public Works and the Bureau of Building Inspection. This opposition by the very agency charged with code enforcement demands at this point a complete reinvention of the Bureau.

Litchfield's success at replacing cooperative staff and administrators who supported code enforcement with personnel whose chief virtue was loyalty to their boss has caused lasting damage to our city. The substandard, often drug-infested hotels in the Mission are a legacy of the Litchfield era. Most of these hotels have never been thoroughly inspected, nor have the many dilapidated and deplorable Mission apartments which house predominantly low-income families. A new Bureau and a new Superintendent have a moral and legal obligation to dramatically increase code enforcement in the Mission, and the Coalition for Code Enforcement intends to make this a reality in 1994.

Randy Shaw is Executive Director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic and a founding member of the Coalition on Code Enforcement.

## BBI HIT WITH CIVIL RIGHTS CASE

HEATLESS HOMES OF LATINO TENANTS SPUR ACTION



In front of 118 San Jose, coalition members were joined by the Mission's officially authorized version of Mexico's tenant rights crusader, Super Barrio. Photo by Eugene Kettner.

by Victor Miller

At a December 22nd press conference held at a Mission District residence that has been without heat for 3-1/2 years, the Coalition on Code Enforcement announced they are filing a civil rights complaint against the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) for failure to give Latino tenants equal treatment under the law.

The home of Alejo and Graciela Ramirez and their two children at 118 San Jose Avenue was selected as a prime example of how City inspectors have failed to follow through on tenant complaints and allowed obviously dangerous conditions to continue unrepaired for months, sometimes years.

BBI documents show the Ramirez' apartment was inspected on April 5, 1993, and found to have 15 Housing Code violations, including lack of heat, rotting window frames and leaking ceilings. Nonetheless, no action was taken to compel the owner to make the necessary repairs. Had the BBI chosen to do so, fines of up to \$500 a day could have been imposed until the building was properly heated, which in this case would have amounted to \$133,000. Instead, no action was taken for nearly eight months, with the exception of an inconclusive BBI superintendents' hearing on December 9th (at which the owner failed to appear).

On December 15th, alarmed by the repeated illnesses of their older child, the Ramirez family succeeded in getting a reinspection of their home, only to be told by inspector Colbert Dare that the heater just needed the pilot light relit; a PG&E examination of the heater that same evening determined the heater to be nonfunctional. The Ramirez family, left without heat, returned to their practice of three previous winters: everyone sleeping huddled together in the same room to keep warm. This year, for extra measure, they are also filing a civil rights complaint against the BBI.

The Ramirez family is joined in their action by Alicia Munoz of 224 Wayland St., whose apartment has been without heat since March 11 of 1993; and St. Peter's Housing Committee, a tenants' rights organization serving primarily Spanish-speaking renters and a member of the Coalition on Code Enforcement.

The complaint charges that the BBI has:

- failed to follow existing laws that would impose civil and criminal penalties on landlords violating the heat laws in housing rented to Latinos;
- failed to follow standard time schedules for enforcement;
- failed to notify Latino tenants of the progress of their cases and to track their complaints;
- demonstrated insensitivity to the civil rights of Latino tenants.

This civil rights action comes on the heels of the Coalition's successful campaign for legislative reform and the resignation-under-fire of BBI chief Larry Litchfield. These victories began with a Coalition press conference in December 1992 in front of a Mission St apartment building where tenants, most of them Latinos, had been without heat for months. The publicity generated by this case forced the owner to bring his building up to code.

Almost a year to the day later, the same activists found themselves in front of the Ramirez residence, fighting the same fight as if the previous year's efforts had meant nothing. While BBI has proved extremely dilatory in enforcing the laws against slumlords in general (as documented in several preceding issues of this publication) official ineptitude in Latino tenant cases has always been more pronounced — the building violations more horrendous, BBI's response more flaccid.

BBI has always been a bureaucratic nightmare for everyone to deal with. Given the lack of Spanish-speaking inspectors, the reluctance of many recently arrived immigrants to get involved with any government agency and a general absence of Latino political clout, the Ramirez situation is not all that surprising — and, as documented by St. Peter's Housing Committee, not all that uncommon. The Coalition contends that BBI believes Latino complaints by and large will not be vigorously pursued and can therefore be ignored without consequence. The net result is a lower standard of service to Latino tenants: a policy of institutionalized racism by the BBI.

Considering the immigrant-bashing campaigns of 1993 and resurgence of civil-rights organizing that arose in response, this new phase in the Coalition's battle with BBI may be the hottest fight of 1994.

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A large, circular stone relief sculpture, possibly a frieze or a large medallion, depicting a seated figure, likely a deity or ruler. The figure is shown in profile, facing right, with a large, ornate headdress or crown. The figure's hands are resting on their knees. The background of the relief is filled with intricate carvings, including what appear to be lotus petals or stylized floral motifs. The entire sculpture is set within a circular frame, and the surrounding area shows signs of being a work in progress or a site of archaeological excavation.

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# CHIVA, CHIVA, CHIVA

## DESPITE BEST EFFORTS BY COPS, NEIGHBORS HEROIN TRADE THRIVES

by Charlie LeDuff

A tall man stood on the corner of 16th Street and Valencia peddling dope.

"If you looking for chiha [heroin] that'll set you spinning, see that guy with the red coat." The man, named Jay, pointed down the street. "He's hooked in with Luis and he just brought in a killer load from Mexico yesterday."

The man in the red coat was working the corner of 16th and Rondell, on the west side of the 16th Street BART station.

Police officials said that traffic on the streets has been heavier since they cracked down on drug dealing in Dolores Park this past summer. One disturbing trend they are seeing is pushers claiming area restaurants as bases for operation.

In an effort to discourage the dealing, Mission police have been working with the City Attorney and building inspectors. They are targeting business owners who turn a blind eye to dope pushers in and around their premises.

Last month, police closed down the New Canton restaurant, ostensibly for drug crimes. The City Attorney's Office followed the police action with a court-ordered injunction to vacate the building for code violations.

"It's part of a new, concerted effort between City agencies to target and shut down problem areas," Assistant City Attorney Eileen Dick said. "The New Canton was specifically targeted due to the numerous drug arrests on the premises."

The operation, officially called the Code Enforcement Task Force and operated through the City Attorney's Office, better equips the police to act on problem areas, instead of arresting individuals, many of whom end up back on the street the very same day. This was one of the few times the program was carried out in the Mission.

Police will concentrate on those businesses that do not make a legitimate attempt to curb drug dealing around their premises, according to Officer Ray Benson, community liaison for the Mission Precinct police. In the case of the New Canton, there were more than 50 arrests inside the restaurant for crack and heroin distribution this past year.

"Our operatives noticed the owner was

turning his head to the drugs being sold at the counter right in front of him. So, we went after him," said Benson.

16th and Mission Cafeteria, located at 2022 Mission next to the BART station, is a high traffic area. But Benson said it is not a target of police sweeps since the owner makes an effort to rid himself of drug dealers.

Notwithstanding, a man named Pepe solicits rock cocaine in 2022's doorway. He

of anyone who cares to notice, why can't the police do something to stop the activity and its accompanying violence?

A 16th street merchant who declined to give his name for fear of retribution from the dealers said the trafficking problem is costing him business. He said his profit margin comes from non-Mission residents coming in and spending their money. "Revenue has been down since the police cleaned up Dolores Park

ing has been cleared, I can walk my street at night again."

After being awarded a cash settlement that he characterized as "somewhere between \$100 and \$1,000," Norlin feels empowered to go after other troublesome houses.

Two such houses, targeted by another neighborhood group, are 140-144 Albion and 165-171 Albion. Neighbors complain that drugs are being trafficked through these apartments.

No one would answer questions at 165-171 Albion, but surrounding residents had plenty to say. One man, who has lived near 171 for a dozen years, claimed he sees drugs being sold, weapons brandished, and women purchased. He said he has complained to the tenants and owners. "My complaints were only met with mockery and threats," he said, adding that he could not identify himself because he is "a sitting duck for these creeps."

At 140 and 142 Albion, a steel-barred and graffiti-riddled building, there were expressions of surprise when residents were told they were suspected by neighbors of dealing drugs.

"No, I don't know nothing about that," said Luis, a 24-year-old who said he lives with his parents.

Area merchants said they see dealers from the streets hanging out at Luis's building at all hours. When asked what he does for money, Luis said he has a job. When asked where, he said, "On 16th." When asked where on 16th, he said, "On 16th."

Luis's neighbor, who was on his way out, was asked what he thought about neighbors trying to rid the block of drugs. He smiled thinly and said, "Esta bien."

Later that evening, a man in a red jacket — the man purported to "hooked in with Luis" — stopped in at 140-144 Albion, chatted for a few moments and left.

Ethyl Newlin, facilitator for the 16th and Mission Community Public Safety Mini Task Force, is incensed at the Dodge City style of lawlessness. She does not blame the police for the crime problem, however. She points at the District Attorney's Office.

"I'm seeing the same criminals out on the streets," Newlin said. "Unless we see more prosecutions, then there will be no abatement in crime. These guys are career criminals and they know the system very well."

The District Attorney's Office did not return phone calls.

Benson explained the frustration of the understaffed Mission police. He said in any given week, police make 100 drug-related arrests. He said that less than 20 percent of those arrests are prosecuted.

"A few months ago, an officer arrested a pusher three times on the same corner in five days for possessing the same narcotic," he said. "The officers here are really frustrated. We just don't have the resources to handle the problem. This code enforcement program gives us an alternative method of fighting crime."



Frequent drug arrests at the New Canton Restaurant led to its closure.

Photo by Eugene Kettner

said drug activity has slowed since the New Canton was closed. "The police are real heavy in this area now," he said.

Just down the street from the New Canton and kitty-corner from the Cafeteria, the red-jacketed man offered his bundles without solicitation. It is precisely this brashness that has Mission residents and merchants angry and frustrated. If pushers are brazen enough to peddle dope in the most public areas, in view

this summer," he said. "Now the pushers are all on the streets and people are afraid to come down."

As he spoke, two shabby men exchanged money in front of a taqueria across the street. The stooped one bought a small package, placed it in his mouth and walked on.

Some neighborhood activists think the sweeps are a good step toward stopping the drug problem, but not enough. They are taking it upon themselves to fight the drug dealers and users that operate in their streets. Ron Norlin, a 12-year resident of the Mission and member of the Mission District Residents for Safer Streets, was recently awarded a cash settlement by the San Francisco Municipal Court. Norlin brought suit against Mike and Virginia Samaduroff, owners of 2621 Harrison Street.

Norlin and neighbors had tried to get the Samaduroffs to clean up the fire-ravaged property for years. Norlin argued the property was an eyesore and a drug haven.

"There had been a change in the neighborhood," he said. "Last year, I realized things were out of control after someone was murdered on 24th and Treat. Now that the build-

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## THE GRASSROOTS REPORT

## THE ETC FIGHTS BACK

by D. Michael Spero

Weekday afternoons, cheerful children stream out of Marshall Elementary School and down 15th Street, crossing Mission near Rainbow Grocery with the help of a smiling guard. Their destination: St. John's Educational Thresholds Center (ETC), an oasis located in the stately Episcopal church on the corner of Julian Street. The kids, mostly Southeast Asian immigrants, can learn and play here, safe from the disorder of the 16th and Mission community they call home.

Outside St. John's, though, these kids are threatened by crime and gangs, dangerous housing conditions and multiple health needs. In mid-1991, St. John's staff decided to mobilized their community to improve the environment for their students and everyone who lives and works there. They called on block clubs, services providers and government agencies; and together they created the 16th and Mission Community Public Safety Mini-Task Force.

"We've got representatives from every aspect of the community," said Ethel Newlin, St. John's Programs Coordinator. "The Native American Health Center, Julian and Natoma Street Neighbors, Marshall, BART, Project SAFE, Fire Department, Guardian Angels, the police, merchants, everyone. Our approach is that we're all working together. We tell government agencies, 'We'll help you do your job for us.'"

The task force covers an area from South Van Ness to Valencia and from the freeway to 17th Street, comprised of auto repair shops, other commercial uses both legal and illegal, and housing ranging from projects to private homes. Drug dealing, gangbanging and criminal violence have dozens of outlets here.

"We pulled the Task Force together because our students were endangered," said Newlin. "For example, the Marshall Playground was littered with syringes and condoms from the SRO hotel next door. The Task Force got a wall built to protect the

playground and the children."

They have also gotten the Department of Corrections to crack down on parole violators, held street safety and self-defense classes, won increased street sweeping, and fought for better enforcement of building codes.

Not only have the kids have benefited, they have had a lot of fun. At the recent ETC Christmas party, they enjoyed entertainment, including a lion dance, provided by one of the Task Force agencies. "They definitely feel safer," said Newlin.

St. John's, led by Newlin and Director Kyle Fiore, appears to have solved one of the great problems facing neighborhood organizations: how to get government to pay attention and cooperate. How have they done it?

"We feel that the agencies may not be part of the community, but the individuals who work for them are," said Newlin. "We write letters of support, commend them when they do well, and lobby for them downtown."

But does friendly cooperation usually work when government would rather ignore the needs of poor neighborhoods? Francis Calpotura, who trains organizers for CTWO (Center for Third World Organizing), believe such strategy is self-limiting.

"Officials may sincerely want to help," he said, "and they may seemingly be on your side. But when push comes to shove they'll be recalcitrant about doing the right thing, because it would change the status quo. And the status quo is where they get their organizational and corporate support."

"Ultimately, you want to change the policies of the institution. Who can change them? Not the clerk or the beat officer."

Calpotura said the right approach depends on the community, the organizer and the stage of the fight. White, middle-class organizers and communities may collaborate successfully where a poor, minority neighborhood could not. An organizer accomplishes a lot using his or her personal contacts, as Newlin has, but does this build the community's political experience and long-term strength?



A good time was had by all at this year's ETC Christmas party. Photo by Josef Pupava

Newlin believes even the poorest neighborhood can exert effective pressure. "As long as they pay taxes, and everyone does, they can influence the government, especially if they vote," she said. "The institution is the store, and the community is the customer. We can always decide to stop buying."

The 16th and Mission Community Public Safety Mini-Task Force meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. For information call St. John's Tutoring Center at 864-

5205.

Officer Ray Benson of Mission Station estimates there are as many as 50 active block clubs in the Mission. Isn't it time neighborhood organizations came together to pool forces, exchange ideas and share information? How about a phone tree or regular summit meetings? Contact this column with question, news and ideas about organizing care of New Mission News, or call me at 826-7944.



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# BEST FOODS SITE SEEN AS UC LAB

by Phillip Robertson

A New York investment group has recently outbid the New College of California for the Best Foods buildings at Mariposa and Bryant; this may have been the first shot fired in a Mission District real estate speculation war.

The East Coast group's higher bid effectively put the College's \$20 million relocation project on ice.

At the center of the controversy over the development of the area around the Best Foods building are plans by the City and the Mayor's office to rezone a section of the North East Mission Industrial Zone (NEMIZ) as a bioscience "Special Use District," possibly including the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF).

The biotech district is designed to attract high-tech companies to the Mission in the hope that it would become the equivalent of Sunnyvale's Silicon Valley for companies doing biological research.

A crucial part of the rezoning plan includes UCSF as the first major occupant, while smaller private companies are expected to be drawn in around it to occupy the nearby buildings. The University has an immediate need to expand its laboratory space by 350,000 square feet and was recently considering a proposal by Paul Lee, an Oakland development advisor, to locate the new facilities at the Best Foods site.

Significantly, UCSF has not endorsed rezoning a part of the NEMIZ as a new district, and instead has leaned towards a mixed-use plan for the area, provoking the ire of the biotech district's key proponent: Kent Sims, of the Mayor's Office of Economic Planning and Development (MOEPD). Sims has stated that he would go through with the rezoning project with or without UCSF and has expressed his frustration that the University has gone too far in accommodating the sentiment of the community in the development of new sites.

As proposed by Sims, the high-tech firms moving into the bioscience district would not

be required to file an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and wait for the City to review the document, a process that usually takes one year. Instead, the new district would fall under a master EIR within its boundaries. The easing of the EIR requirements is seen by MOEPD as an inducement for companies to locate themselves within the zone, but has some residents on edge.

Lee, the son of a former UC Chancellor, submitted a proposal in May to the University that detailed the conversion of the Mariposa and Bryant street properties to UC laboratories. The proposal is entitled "Strategic Analysis: San Francisco Bioscience Center." In the document, the Best Foods site is considered to be the location most suitable for an operation the size of UCSF, even though all existing structures would be razed.

Lee writes, "The expandability of the program is believed to be a key to both academic and financial planners...Each site will have multiple laboratory buildings to allow multiple tenants, including academic researchers, commercial bio-therapeutics firms, and non-profit entities in research and auxiliary services."

Lee goes on to note that without the participation of UCSF, the viability of a larger biotech plan comes into serious question. In the "Next Steps" chapter of his proposal, he asserts, "After extensive feasibility review and investor interviews the conclusion has been reached that the project will not proceed without UCSF as a catalyst. No one has been found who is willing to expose the required funds without a confidence level in UCSF being one of the tenants."

Although UCSF has expressed interest in the location at Mariposa and Bryant, it is unclear what relationship, if any, exists between the University and the New York-based investment group which now owns the buildings. Although the University claims that the proposal for the Best Foods building has been superseded by more recent development plans which they will not discuss, they would not specifically say whether Lee's plan was out of consideration at this time.

The NEMIZ is a large area of the Mission



Photo by Josef Pupava.

Abandoned factory is a pivotal location in a number of schemes for the NEMIZ.

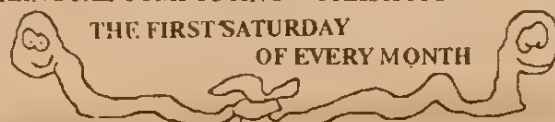
roughly delineated by Potrero, the Central Freeway and 20th and Capp streets, that is zoned for light industrial and heavy commercial uses. The area is particularly amenable to massive redevelopment because of its low property prices and flexible zoning. The biotech district, which would fit inside the

NEMIZ, is bounded by the Central Freeway, Folsom, 19th Street and Potrero.

An important question remains: Have rumors of the City's large-scale plans for development of a "biotech-friendly" area affected the bidding for the Best Foods site and lost the New College of California a campus?

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# mission broadsider

by andy solow

## Armory High School?

On Friday, December 2, motivated by the need for a new site for John O'Connell Technical High School (JOC), at least 20 people toured the Armory building at 14th and Mission. The group included City officials, community neighborhood organizations such as ALIANZA, and members of the Board of Education.

They discovered that the 190,000 square foot building has been vacant for at least 10 years, that the roof leaks and the plumbing and wiring are shot. However, the structural components and the facade of the building are basically sound; and for somewhere between \$75 and \$100 per square foot, the building could be renovated and converted for any use, including a technical high school.

\$23 million has been set aside for the rebuilding of JOC, which should be more than adequate to complete "Armory High School." Even at \$100 per square foot, it would only cost \$19 million to convert what is now a decaying receptacle for urine and trash into a high school big enough to serve at least 1,200 students with space left over.

It has been estimated that it would cost an additional \$27.9 million, plus soft costs and the cost of new equipment, to renovate the old JOC building at 21st and Harrison. Since it is under 200,000 square feet, that estimate comes out to about \$140 per square foot. This seems ridiculously high to me, but I'm just a neighborhood resident, not a rocket scientist.

The only questions left are: Does anybody else have a better idea? and, when are they going to start construction on something other than a Rojas "sandwich" (combining three

school district facilities and housing on one site) or a soccer field in the middle of Las Americas Childrens Center?

The Armory was completed in 1912. Built as part of the Presidio Complex, the armory served as a military harracks and school for roughly 700 men and as a hedge against any civil unrest that the "radicals" and "subversives" of the day might foment.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places (courtesy of longtime Mission resident Ross Worden) and designated a City Landmark, the Armory was declared surplus property by the State Legislature in 1980 and was offered to the City for \$1 during the Agnos administration.

The Armory consists of three primary spaces: a four-story administration building along Mission St., a large open drill court, and a full basement under both. The exterior structure has four octagonal corner towers and a rough clinker brick exterior surface with long narrow slit windows. The administration building was designed as a Spanish-style fortress to which a barrel-vaulted "drill court" was attached.

With over 190,000 square feet of enclosed space, the Armory contained everything from tanks and howitzers to horse stables, a gym, and even an indoor swimming pool. With a 77 foot high ceiling, its 168' x 235' drill court was easily the largest assembly hall in SF prior to WWI.

In 1980, a study by John M. Sanger and Associates' concluded that to completely renovate and upgrade the Armory for use as a multi-purpose facility would cost \$14 million. A 1989 study by Mattison & Shidler proposed to convert the Armory into a movie studio. But nothing was ever done because nobody ever had enough money to finance the renovation of such a large building.

At the end of his administration, Art Agnos gave some of his friends \$1.6 million from the Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) Revolving Loan Fund, ostensibly for the renovation of the Armory. They called themselves the Mission Armory Foundation.

According to its vice president, David Bracker, the Foundation is currently planning to use this money to purchase the Red Stone Building at 16th and Capp streets, the headquarters of Mission Legal Defense, whose executive director is Alfredo Rodriguez, Bracker's cousin. When asked to document his claim that the UDAG money is not specifically earmarked for the Armory, Bracker referred me to Rodriguez.

After several attempts over a two-week period, I finally got Rodriguez on the phone. When asked the same question, Rodriguez said that he had "more important things to do than to talk to me", but he "might have some time next week". Hey Alfredo, I've got more important things to do than talk to you; so do us all a favor and just send a check for \$1.6 million (plus interest) to the School District, in care of Armory High School.

## Dolores Park Soccer-Round 17

On December 1, the Recreation & Parks Department held a "community meeting" on the status of the Dolores Park Soccer Field at the County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park — halfway to Ocean Beach; supposedly, there was no handicapped accessible space available

in the Mission.

Rec & Park and Public Works (DPW) staff presented their plan for a 240-foot informal recreational soccer field that will require only a minimal amount of grading and some new grass. According to DPW architect David Pierce, the installation of the field will change the current 5% grade slope in that part of Dolores Park to 3%. (Mr. Pierce has since passed away. Our condolences to his family.) Retaining walls will not be required, and the net change in elevation over the length of the field will only be about four feet. According to Park Planner Joanne Wilson, scheduled activities other than soccer will be protected and the hours during which soccer can be played will be limited.

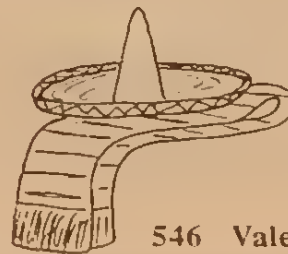
The Plan must still be approved (for the second time) by the Recreation and Park Commission and reviewed once more by the Board of Supervisors before construction can begin. Maybe by the year 2000?

## Boxing Program Moves

According to its director, Ernie Marson, the former Precita Valley Community Center Youth Boxing Club will be moving into new quarters at Jedediah Smith High School in Hunters Point this month. Marson says that the new youth boxing program, sanctioned by the United States Amateur Boxing Federation, will be open for business by February.

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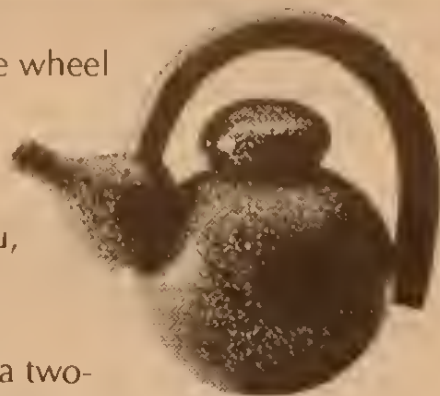
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## CHOLO MADNESS

by Roberto Eligio Alfaro

The spotlight shimmers and four cops  
in a unmarked police vehicle stop and get out.  
The fattest one draws his gun and says, "On  
your fuckin' knees now!"

One cholo is wearing his Ben Davis pants  
and white t-shirt with the Guadalupe on the  
back. His hair is combed back, with the scent  
of Tres Flores on his derby. He's pulled up  
from the pavement and asked, "So what are  
you, Norte or Sur?"

"Que? No entiendo ingles. (What? I don't  
understand English)." So the Spanish speaking  
one — not a Latino cop — asks the question  
again in Spanish. The homeboy gives attitude,  
so the cop slaps him back on the pavement. His  
heart beats against it feeling as if it's going to  
come out his chest. But after a few minutes,  
the police leave and they are released.

Later that night, a few fellows, unfamiliar  
to the clique (gang), pass by looking up the  
street. One of the cholos says, "Que puto!" The  
fellows leave in a frenzy, and the night passes  
slowly with jokes and laughter.

Later, a few homies are kickin' it on the

steps; then one of those same punks yells out  
the rival gang name and waits at the corner.  
Meanwhile, everyone starts throwing bottles  
and arming themselves with hidden weapons  
the cops didn't find.

Reaching the corner, the other set (gang)  
is coming toward them on a collision course  
and outnumbering them. Some scared  
homeboys run; some stay. The feeling is fear  
and courage in the death-filled air. I wonder if  
the Aztecs felt similar when they fought the  
Spaniards? As the battle is waged and the  
adrenaline flows and the blood spills, some  
homeboy goes down and his life passes before  
him in his mind's eye. As he awakes on the  
concrete with a tremendous headache, his  
friends are all around him giving praise for his  
efforts which drove the other gang away. "Let's  
go drink a 40 oz," he states. "Yeah!" they all  
respond. They then go back to the steps to  
drink. Eventually they all go home.

Cholos go through events such as this one  
every day. Understanding the violence  
homeboys go through is difficult. But knowing  
that the cycle of violence is self-defeating and  
only destroys our own camaraderie is difficult  
to grasp. Can it be said that red and blue are



irrelevant? The reason for my thoughts is that  
Nortenos are not just fighting Surenos but  
Nortenos are also fighting Nortenos and  
Surenos are fighting Surenos. This really  
makes colors essentially only an excuse to con-  
tinue the fighting and, therefore, only our ex-  
cuse for our anger and hatred toward each  
other.

Latinos have struggled as laborers, indigos,  
wethacks, zoot suiters, and now are struggling  
as cholos. In the past, when we have moved  
forward, it has been together. This means, that

in the past, the Raza has been united.

In the present situation, as Raza, we are  
not united, and thus we are not achieving what  
is necessary to ensure that we will continue as  
a people into the future. We are, in fact, with  
this senseless bloodshed, heeding the will of  
our oppressors; we are destroying ourselves  
and holding ourselves victims of our own  
violence.

In order to survive as a people, La Raza  
must give up its colors and, instead, it must be  
united!

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# MISSION INSIDER



BY LISA HAMBURGER

## THE YEAR THAT IS TO BE...

I felt too somber during the holiday season of '92 to write my predictions for the forthcoming year, that is until it was 1993 and the Mission was budding, or so I hoped. Today, I'm willing to suspend my self-appointed role as a Mission District hopeful and speak the truth about the year that was and my anxiety about the year that is to be.

The Mayor's Task Force on the Mission was my single biggest disappointment. I was wrong when I predicted that the Task Force will "emerge more cohesive and influential." I, like others, wanted to give the new folks support, in spite of my innermost doubts.

I'm sorry to say that the Task Force is less cohesive than any task force ever known. No one, including its own members, is quite sure who's on it. There are somewhere on the order of 9 vacancies out of 25 seats. One vacancy, due to the recent stormy resignation of the Chairperson, prompted in part by the action of newer members (according to folks in the know) has just now been refilled. The new Task Force Chairperson is the same recently resigned Chairperson Frank Morales, persuaded to return by Jordan's hero Jim Wunderman. I'm waiting with baited breath to see Morales' prize for returning to the Task Force helm.

The Task Force irritates everyone. Its influence is no more or less than that of an ingrown hair: localized, with the potential to ruin your whole day and, by extension, others'. The inescapable misery to follow can only be averted by total eradication at the root.

A recently appointed member of the Task Force went to the airwaves to proclaim his perception of the "truth" about the rezoning plans for the North East Mission Industrial Zone (NEMIZ). I tried to reassure myself, but as the broken hydrant of lies spewed forth, I had to state evidence to the contrary.

As I waited to go on the air, I wondered why neighbors who had lived in harmony for years were now killing each other in Bosnia. Who told them to kill their neighbor and why did they listen?

The voice of the Ollie North-like Task Force Member piqued my wandering mind. Was the audience listening? The picture of a reincarnate began to make good sense. Oscar Wilde warned that, "If a man is sufficiently unimaginative to produce evidence in support of a lie, he might just as well speak the truth."

In another no-show at the Jordan home, a Task Force member, originally nominated because of his social work background and covenant to look after seniors and the homeless, has been found to be nothing less than reptilian. No other creature has a tongue which at once speaks the language of the advocate and within an instant votes to criminalize the homeless and force them to spend 81% of their General Assistance checks to pay a profiteering hotel owner.

Perhaps no one has ever mentioned the federal guideline for housing cost is 30% of income. What would your life look like, if you had to live on the balance remaining from GA-\$65 per month? And, have you seen the condition of most of these hotels?

Obviously the Task Force's lack of credibility in the Mission, evidenced by the lack of public attendance at recent hearings, has not induced members to improve. When the Task Force sufficiently embarrasses the Jordan Administration, then the Mission will see a change in membership, not necessarily for the better. However, the vacuum in leadership at City Hall can make this change a long way off.



In spite of its technocracy, the rezoning of the NEMIZ also grabbed a lot of headlines this past summer. It was all the rage with stories in the dailies, weeklies and monthlies. In the Fall, the Department of City Planning agreed to publish a summary document which clearly lays out the intent and origin of each of the three rezoning plans and specifies, in an easy reader format, the

similarities and differences among them.

The document was also supposed to include a community-based process for community members to voice their opinions. But on the first day of Winter, the City reneged. The City wants total control over how the plans are verbally presented at four public forums to be held in February, segregate Spanish speakers to only one forum where a translator will be available, and not make public the transcripts of the comments from the public forums.

Those of us who have been advocating for a reinstitution of a community-based planning process are outraged. While the semblance of a community-based planning process is likely to be instituted, one thing is for sure: this year the City Planning will continue its doublespeak. The only safeguard is us showing up and speaking out over and over again.



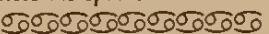
Slumlords, the white collar criminals of the Mission, got away with murder in 1993. In March, Supervisor Kautman publicly acknowledged that 1500 housing units were wasting away in 44 inner Mission single room occupancy hotels. An inspector from the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) said that in all her years as an inspector she's only seen one rodent and a few cockroaches. She went on to proclaim that she's never heard of the spray utilized by exterminators to attract, and thus detect, cockroaches.

Some strides have been made. Under pressure by housing advocates, the Board of Supervisors finally approved legislation to toughen up on slumlords, although the new law is more tame than folks wanted. The biggest hooray is that the legislation will give landlords the educational tools necessary to be good managers. They will have no more excuses in 1994.

Here's my wish list, though I predict none will come to fruition: The intimate circle of four inspectors will expand to a cadre of 12. All referrals to BBI will be inspected within 5 days and presented to the director within 30 days. A "three-strikes-and-you're-out" campaign will be instituted so that after 3 serious code violations, the City can force repairs and lien the property. Stiffer fines and follow-up within 5 days of citation issuance. And, my grandest wish of all, that BBI will be overseen by a citizens' commission.



Wish list unfulfilled? Still there have been a few momentous stocking-stuffers. Centro Del Pueblo is renting space to the Mission Neighborhood Waldorf Kindergarten. These tireless educators are bringing a private school experience at truly bargain prices to children of all economic backgrounds. The Kindergarten addresses the child as a whole person, not just a potential consumer...so, by September we will see children baking, singing, dancing, sculpting, gardening, painting, and yes PLAYING! in a state-of-the-art space that is functional and beautiful (could it really be in the Mission?). Makes you want to go back to school. The staff will be offering workshops on parenting, child development, and crafts. Stay tuned for news of workdays when you can help complete the space.



More local action can be expected on the crime front now that it's a public health issue. The Real Alternatives Program (RAP) and Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN) are forces to be reckoned with. Under the Mission District Prevention/Lifeline Initiative, RAP and CARECEN are mounting a grass-roots campaign against violence. The community peace plan targets youth 11-24 years old.

Since violence is a preventable social ill, the solution must and does involve teens, parents, merchants and elected officials. Part of the solution also includes an analysis of all the Mission-based non-profits, to learn where there are service gaps and where there is duplication.



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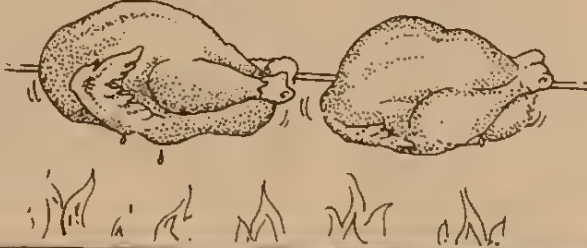
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# RECYCLE RECYCLE RECYCLE

A new study conducted for the San Francisco Recycling Program shows that 72% of San Franciscans recycle on a regular basis and that the majority of residents are satisfied with San Francisco's recycling program (40% very satisfied and 38% somewhat satisfied). Two-thirds (67%) of respondents say they receive all the information they would like about recycling.

The percentage of residents who regularly recycle is 69%. Mission residents are fairly familiar with the recycling program, with over 79% saying they are very or somewhat familiar with it. Almost half (43%) know that the program has a telephone hotline for questions about recycling (554-6193).

Of Mission residents, 42% are satisfied with the recycling program and 53% are somewhat satisfied. Only 5% expressed dissatisfaction with the program. 67% say they receive enough information about recycling.

The most-often recycled materials in the Mission are newspapers (recycled by 86% of participants), glass (83%) and aluminum cans

(82%). The least-recycled materials are white paper (67%), plastic bottles (70%) and junk mail (70%). More than half of respondents in the Mission said they were able to recycle everything they would like to recycle, although 27% say they would like to be able to recycle plastics, 5% would like curbside pickup of wood and 3% say they would like to be able to recycle used motor oil and clothing.

Of Mission residents, 32% use redemption or huyback centers and 14% use Richmond Environmental Action or the Haight-Ashbury Neighborhood Council drop-off centers. The major reasons given were that the centers accept more materials, they are more convenient, and there is too much material for curbside collection.

More than half the respondents citywide (54%) said that they had noticed theft of curbside materials (scavenging) in their neighborhoods, but less than one-third of respondents considered this to be a problem. More than half of Mission residents (65%) have noticed scavenging, with 32% considering it to

be a problem, because it takes money away from a program paid for by City residents.

51% of Mission residents say they are buying fewer toxic products now than they have in the past. Respondents gave protecting the environment as the number one reason for buying less toxic products (62%), followed by health issues (22%).

Citywide, African-American, Asian and Latino residents are significantly more concerned about the health issues posed by toxins than whites are. Of all City residents, 62% feel that it is very important that products contain less toxic materials. Latino respondents were the most likely of all to be concerned (80%).

64% of Mission respondents felt it was very important that packages be made from materials that can be recycled, 58% considered it very important that items be packaged in recycled material and 56% thought it very important that items be made from recycled materials.

The majority of residents (60%) have done nothing to reduce the amount of material they

have thrown away in the last six months. 18% say they are trying to recycle more to reduce waste, while 7% are now buying in bulk to cut down on garbage.

47% of Mission parents with school-age children have seen material on recycling that children have brought home from school, and more than half (59%) have heard their children talk about recycling at home.

The market research study, conducted by Barnes-Clarke Inc. in conjunction with David Binder and Fleischman Field Research, included a telephone survey of 600 randomly selected San Francisco residents.

As a follow-up to this study, the San Francisco Recycling Program will conduct an intensive outreach campaign in selected neighborhoods to increase participation in curbside and apartment recycling.

David Assman, Director of the S.F. Recycling Program

## GOODBYE GOODBYE

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT BY THE TIME THESE WORDS HIT THE PRINTED PAGE, I'LL BE ON THE ROAD SOMEWHERE - WHILE YOU'RE SITTING SNUGLY AT YOUR CHOSEN VALENCIA STREET CAFE OR BAR OR EARTHQUAKE RIDDEN TOILET BOWL - OR WHEREVER YOU ARE, I'LL BE IN MY BEAT \$300 CAR IN LAS VEGAS, NOWHERE, ARIZONA, DEEP THROAT, TEXAS - HELL, I DON'T KNOW... YEAH, IT'S THE DAWN OF A NEW YEAR & I'M HAULIN' ASS TO BROOKLYN, NYC - YOU KNOW, DREAMS OF A BETTER LIFE (BROOKLYN IN JANUARY???) & BLAH BLAH BLAH... YOU KNOW...

I CAME TO SAN FRANCISCO IN THE SUMMER OF '88, LITERALLY BAREFOOT & PREGNATE (NOT TO MENTION BLACK & BLUE) - IN SEARCH OF NOT A DREAM BUT A SAFE PLACE TO CRASH. AND SO I FOUND ONE ON MY SISTERS COUCH ON LINDA STREET; LIFE JUST AIN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE. SO I'VE GONE & LEFT & KEPT COMING BACK (JUST LIKE YOUR FAVORITE BAR); I'VE CRIED & SWEATED & CURSED & LOVED ALL OVER THESE STREETS; OWNED THEM, MADE THEM MINE. I DON'T WANT TO GET ALL DRIPPY & SENTIMENTAL HERE; (PARTING SCENES ALWAYS BRING OUT THE GOOD IN ME) BECAUSE ONCE YOU'RE A PART OF A PLACE YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU ANYWHERE. HOME IS WHERE THEY ALWAYS HAVE TO TAKE YOU IN - I DON'T CARE WHAT FRANK JORDAN AND HIS MATRIX PROGRAM SAY... SAN FRANCISCO IS STILL THE FREAK OASIS OF THE WEST. WHERE ELSE CAN ALL THE WEIRDOS GO AND FEEL AT HOME? WELL, I GUESS THEY CAN GO TO NEW YORK & RENT CLOSET SPACE NEXT TO ME & TONY & VINNIE & GUIDO... OKAY, C-YA IN THE MOVIES,,, EVEL-G P.S. ENJOY THAT EARTHQUAKE!!



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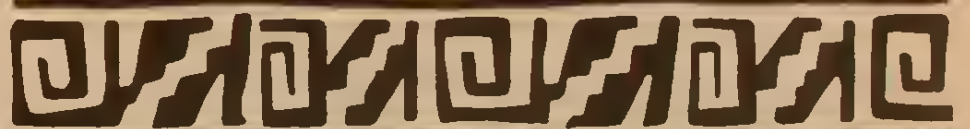
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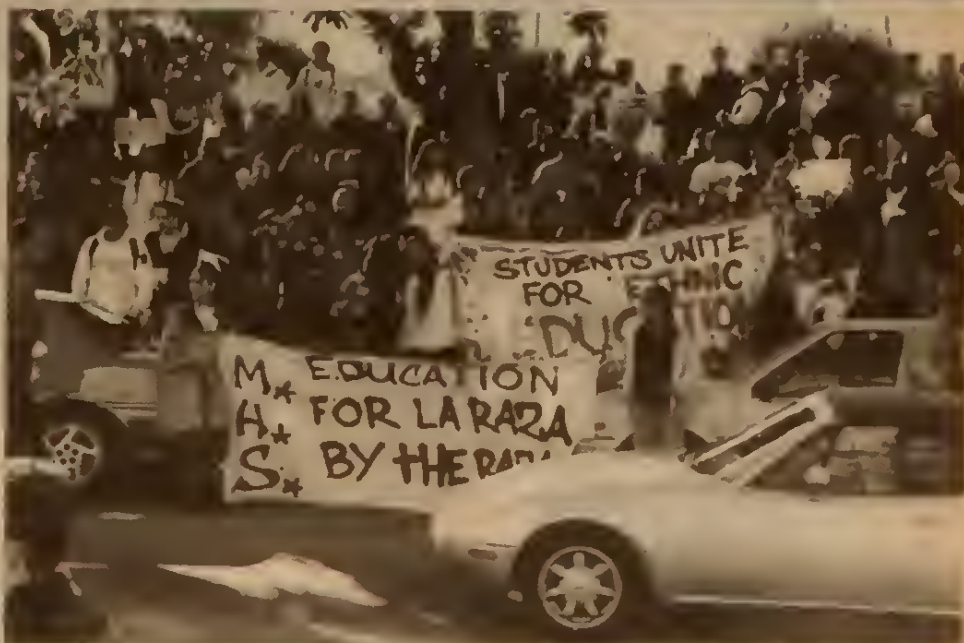
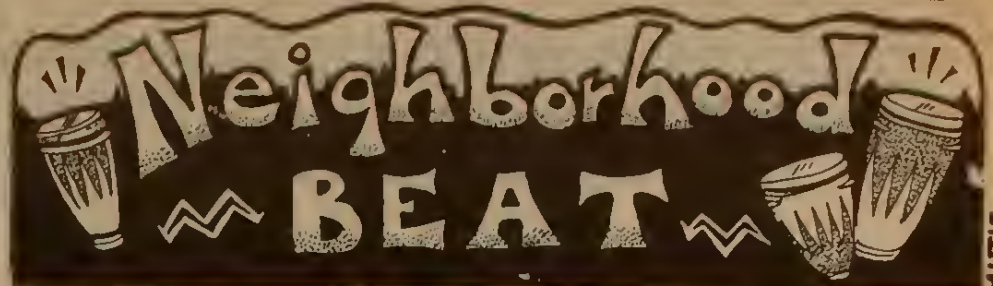
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## MISSION HIGH WALKOUT

By Deanne Berger-Moudgil

On Wednesday, December 15, at approximately 9:30 a.m., more than 500 Mission High School students walked out of class. Their primary purpose was to demand a better education.

The students assembled peacefully at Dolores Park, directly across from the main steps of the school. There they held up posters listing their demands for a better education, sang freedom songs, and occasionally chanted "We want Eddie." Eddie Alicea, a security guard much loved and respected by the students, had recently been suspended with pay.

Most administrators refused to be interviewed. However, Charles Perry, head of Security Operations at Mission High, said the walkout had been organized by Alicea himself. "In fact, it was he who wrote up these demands," he said, pointing to one of the flyers handed out by the students at the beginning of the rally.

Student organizers deny Perry's charge. Said junior Olga Zaragoza: "What we did on that day of the walkout was to protest against the school for their history of dismissing people who have tried to help us. Charles Perry gets along with us but he always keeps his distance. Most of the adults at the school don't take the time to get to know us at our level; they just act superior to us."

Zaragoza continued, "We organized the rally ourselves several months ago, during our Latin club meetings held twice a week during and after school. The purpose of the rally was to get a better education for ourselves."

"We wanted the Latin Club to be different from the other school clubs. We didn't just want to sell candy, we wanted to do something about racism. We wanted to get better education and treatment for Latinos and other ethnic groups."

Alicea also hotly denies Perry's charges: "The Latin Club is one of several programs I helped put together such as the building and maintenance class, the photo/video lab and the horticulture class. Once those programs

were set up the students themselves decided what would happen with them and the students in the Latin Club decided to exercise their constitutional right to make the demands that have been stated. What Perry's saying just isn't true".

Honor student Vicki Gomez, one of the first to walk out, complained bitterly, "The education we get at Mission High is very poor and often we, as Latinos, are treated very badly. Even though this school is composed of mostly Latinos, we learn very little about our own history or culture. Here we are subjected to a lot of racism."

She gave an example illustrating the kind of cultural and ethnic insensitivity prevalent at Mission High: The students were told there would be a Cinco de Mayo program at the school—a historical first. But, as it turned out, "It had nothing to do at all with Cinco de Mayo. We were very disappointed; we complained to the administration, which later admitted the oversight and apologized."

After rallying in Dolores Park, about 300 students (escorted by several SFPD patrol cars) marched peacefully to the Board of Education on Van Ness. Outside, using a bullhorn, the students read off their list of demands, which included: more ethnic studies in history and literature; a better managed school; quality education taught with dignity; college preparation and job training workshops; more dedicated teachers; an administration and faculty held more accountable; a dress code that would not stereotype them but allow them to wear such items as hats, hoods, and pagers.

Since the rally, Eddie Alicea has been fired, one student organizer was suspended and another was expelled.

Students vow to continue fighting for Mission High School to respond to their needs. Gomez said, "In the past, many students have complained of how bad the school is but never did anything about it. Never before at Mission have students organized themselves and had a walkout. This time we are going to make Mission a better school!"

## LIBRARY STAYS OPEN

by Alana Herron

The Mission Library has avoided being closed for the next two years by the skin of its teeth.

The Library at 3359 24th Street is uniquely suited to serve the Latino community, with one of the largest collections of Spanish-language books in Northern California. But lack of funds threatened to keep it from finding a temporary home during renovations.

In 1988, the City of San Francisco passed Proposition 8, which would set aside funds to bring each branch of the San Francisco Public Library to federal OSHA standards. These standards, among other things, require public buildings to be made seismographically sound and accessible to the handicapped. The Mis-

sion Library was no exception and hence was scheduled to be upgraded this spring.

In September of 1993, members of the Mission Library staff asked the Mayor's Office for supplemental funds to keep the library open during the upgrade. They also requested that the renovations start early, because the furnace was broken and the building was intolerably cold.

Debbie Corneau, Mission Branch Librarian, said, "It's a health and safety requirement to have the building be at least 65 degrees, and the City promised to fix the furnace last year. We still do not want the library shut down completely."

However, the Mayor's Office rejected the request. "The deciding factor was that there was no money to pay for relocation," said


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Richard Marsh, Secretary of the Library Commission.

During the second week of December, the Board of Supervisors' Economic Vitality Committee held a meeting. Present were members Supervisors Willie Kennedy, Barbara Kaufman and Carole Migden, as well as Supervisor Susan Leal. Approximately 150 people, many

the residents' demands for a temporary site. Supervisor Migden suggested funds might be used from the City bonds for seismographic upgrading. "Bonds money can go towards paying for the branch relocation while the work is being done. If we cannot get the money this way, we will have to look elsewhere."

The Mayor's Office has reversed itself,



Photo by Eugene Kettner.

An outpouring of protests swayed Supervisors Kaufman, Kennedy and Conroy

Mission residents, testified that they wanted to keep the library open. Supporters included members of the YWCA and Headstart, as well as groups from outside the Mission, such as Friends of the Library and Library TNT (The Neighborhoods Together).

Committee members promised to meet both Mission residents and the Mayor's budget concerns.

Jim Ross of the Mayor's Office of Business and Community Services said, "We are looking for any and every space with a roof and four walls. We have it narrowed down to a few choices. The money is the biggest qualification, and then size, and of course it must meet

and is now committed to keeping the Mission Library open and is looking for the means and space for the temporary library. Although one resident and community activist suggested that funds set aside to develop 24th street be used to finance the project, a spokesman from the Mayor's office said they will try not to use that money for the Library. Instead, they are working with Mission landlords of both public and private buildings to strike a deal that will satisfy OSHA standards. The Mayor's Office is committed to finding funds and a location. The problem comes down to 65 million in Supplemental Budget increases when the City has only 35 million to spend."

## PROS OPPOSED

Supervisor Terrence Hallinan's proposal to legalize prostitution is drawing criticism from an unexpected quarter: The US Prostitutes Collective.

The group is one member of the Task Force on Prostitution, which is also comprised of merchants and others who favor legalization.

US PROS, a prostitutes' rights organization, objects to proposals for city-run brothels removed from residential neighborhoods, where prostitute women would be registered, subject to health inspections and forced to carry passbooks.

"Apartheid for sex workers is no solution to red-light neighborhoods," said Rachel West, US PROS spokeswoman. "Legalization/regulation would not end the poverty and stigmatization of sex workers."

The group advocates the abolition of prostitution laws altogether. Women would be able to advertise and work from their own premises, and there would be no need for red-

light districts.

"Because sex workers are criminalized, we are blamed for all the problems of inner city neighborhoods ..." said West, recommending that the law "disentangle consenting sex from violent crimes and other nuisance offenses."

She said that in Nevada and Hamburg, Germany, legalization has created sex assembly-lines which women have described as prisons. In Hamburg, prostitutes pay 56% of their earnings in taxes and get no social benefits. Only an estimated 12% work in the legalized area, where competition is fierce and they must work long shifts to pay middlemen and high rents for the rooms.

"As long as prostitute women are confined to restricted areas and kept apart from the rest of the community, we will lack the legal and civil rights available to most people, and the stigma attached to prostitution will remain," she said.

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Photo by Joe Hakim



Photo by Joe Hakim



## IMAGES OF 1993

Bell Bazzar, the Mission's oldest business closed shop, the victim of hard times. (Upper Left) The Matrix Program displaced people from downtown and intensified the presence of the homeless in the Mission. (Left, Second from the Top) The Matrix program was denounced by most progressive organizations and the subject of numerous demonstrations such as the Interfaith Candlelight Memorial Service held at Civic Center on December 20. (Left, Second from the Bottom) Housing activists, often cheered on by masked man Super Barrio had a watershed year. (Bottom Left, see story on page three) The Dolores Street Baptist Church

and Community Center which provided shelter for the homeless was struck by a devastating arson fire in August but was well along the way to reopening by December. A big help in the rebuilding efforts was the presentation of an oversized check for \$200,000 from the Richard M. Cohen Trust. (Above) No buts about it, Carnaval '93 was great. (Below) Community patrols and police action finally returned Mission Playground to the kids, once the dope dealers were driven out. (Bottom) See page six to learn where they were driven out to.



Photo by Eugene Kettner



Photo by Eugene Kettner



Photo by Armando Vasquez



RAY AUF A BRASILIAN CLUB PRES!

Photo by Rodney Jackson



Photo by Eugene Kettner



# MISSION CRIME 1993

by Victor Miller

As the chart on this page shows, major crime incidents in the Mission declined during the first 11 months of 1993. Nonetheless, Mission residents are still highly concerned about crime, especially gang-related violence. Three separate citizen crime patrols now operate on a regular basis. Violent dope dealers were finally chased out of Mission Playground, but (as reported on page six of this issue) they've resurfaced elsewhere, as have grass-roots efforts against them (see page seven).

The second annual Mission Summit on youth issues was held in June. Over 300 people attended a six-hour brainstorming session at Horace Mann School to come up with solutions to youth violence. The funding to turn these ideas into actions came from the San Francisco Foundation and the California Wellness Foundation. These two foundations gave grants, totaling \$100,000, to the Real Alternatives Program (RAP) and the Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN) for developing a community peace plan that would focus on youth between the ages of 11 to 24.

A more direct approach was called for and taken following the gang rape of two 14-year-old girls on November 26. In December, 60 cops stormed the homes of suspects, who were believed to be members of the 22nd and Bryant Gang. Police made nine arrests. One suspect remains at large.

On December 1st and 2nd, the FBI and local police agencies gave the Army St. Projects a pretty thorough busting in raids that netted 46 individuals on narcotics and weapons charges. Seven of those were members of the notorious Branner family. A similar raid in 1986 had supposedly broken the Branners' drug operation at the projects, but evidently not for good. As dramatic as this action was, most of the arrests were for low-level drug dealing because police were forced to terminate their operation prematurely, after the

Mission						
November 1993 Compared to Same Period of Previous Year						
Year-to-Date Comparison						
	Nov-92	Nov-93	% Change	1992	1993	% Change
Homicide	1	2	100.00%	19	18	-5.26%
Rape	1	0	-100.00%	51	28	-45.10%
Robbery	80	52	-35.00%	1194	942	-21.11%
Aggravated Assault	61	47	-22.95%	739	570	-22.87%
Burglary	127	97	-23.62%	1381	1192	-13.69%
Auto Boosting	147	89	-39.46%	1943	1586	-18.37%
Other Larceny	143	143	0.00%	2172	1978	-8.93%
Motor Vehicle Theft	114	81	-28.95%	1556	1179	-24.23%
	674	511	-24.18%	9055	7493	-17.25%

SOURCE SFPD.

November shooting death of a Branner threatened to set off a wave of retaliation.

The Mission got a new, and hopefully more permanent, police captain (there have been eight in seven years). Captain Joaquin Santos has kept a high profile in the community since

taking up his duties in November. Of Nicaraguan heritage, Santos also has the advantage of having grown up in the Mission. Additionally, Officer Joanne Welsh returns to Mission Station after a stormy tenure downtown.

In 1994, it looks like the hot criminal-justice action will be focused on breaking up the heroin trade along 16th St. and increasing pressure on the Sureno gang, the Treces, based at 19th and Mission.



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### HEALTHY HIBERNATING TO YOU



by Sally McMullen, L.Ac., D.N.B.A.O



Christmas is over. Thank God. Did you feel out of step with some of the "festivities"? Well, no wonder. Winter is a time of looking inward in order to resolve one's problems so that one can make a fresh start in the Spring. It's not the time for running around in the malls.

In the olden days we would have been home canning and putting up provisions for the long winter. We would have been sitting around a fire to keep warm. Baking Xmas cookies would have been a perfect pastime. I tried making cookies this year and got fooled by a glossy magazine photo. The cookies didn't look anything like they were 'posed to. So I went back to tried and true recipes. There's the ticket.

Do you feel more emotional these days? I bet you do if you've hit one too many malls or spent too much money. I felt pretty bad about my cookies, among other things.

In Chinese medicine, Winter is a time for celebrating the inward, sensitive parts of our nature. I'm sure that's the true spirit of Christmas.

During Winter, Mother Nature is in her resting stage, preparing her roots for Spring. The cold weather brings everyone together for warmth of friendship. I hope everyone has their share of loving friends or family. If not, you've got to do something about it.

Nights are longer in the Winter — December 21st was the longest night of the year. Now the days will get longer again. Hallelujah.

In Chinese medicine, the main organ that we focus on in Winter, especially in older people, is the kidneys. Often people begin to have urinary problems in the Winter, like frequency or urgency of urination. Also, since the kidneys are located about waist level, in the back of the body, people frequently begin to have low backaches, or trouble getting up from a chair without using their hands to support them.

These conditions can be helped or resolved with acupuncture and Chinese herbs. We routinely prescribe Kidney Tonics in the Winter to prevent people from developing any of the above problems. (The old "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" philosophy.)

Here are a few common sense health reminders for these cold days and long nights: Keep your body warm. Keep your energy moving when outdoors or you'll be a human popsicle. Get plenty of rest. Eat well; remember those organic vegetables. When you relax, relax completely. Relish your dream time; this is an excellent way to get in touch with your inner feelings and to resolve nagging problems.

Good health. Good cheer. Any questions? Call your friendly acupuncturist, Sally McMullen, L. Ac., D.N.B.A.O., at (415) 550-7732.



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# WOMEN'S KULTURE KLATCH

by Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien

January is the beginning of a new Julian year, and each year is begun with the ritual of making resolutions. Some of us decide that it is time to quit smoking cigarettes. However, I long ago resolved not to bother with that resolution, doomed to failure because my rebel is adamant about going against the herd mentality. Some of us resolve to diet. This is also an exercise in futility, since eating is a natural part of our existence. While I acknowledge that pies, ice cream and french fries may not occur naturally, it is unnatural to deprive the self of these delectable human food creations. Deprivation is a dishonorable use of will. It is another example of patriarchal abuses. We are taught that deprivation builds character, makes us better people, adds to the moral fiber of society.

I recently wandered past the storefront that has been occupied by Women for Peace for the past couple of decades. There is a flyer in the window that explains: to provide adequate food, housing, education, clothing and health care to every person in the world for one year would cost \$12 billion. That amount is how much is spent in the world every two weeks on weapons. There are many people in the world living with deprivation of even the simple pleasure of ice cream, of the basic necessity of any food, so a small group of people can make huge profits wasting bullets or killing people.

Every year we spend thousands of dollars to imprison one individual who, when he or she is freed, will be a more dangerous criminal than when incarcerated. If each prisoner were simply given that amount to live on, it is possible we would have fewer criminals, because the pain of the deprivation of poverty would be diminished. Without pain there would be no

need for painkillers like cocaine. Without the deprivations of poverty there would be no need for the violence of rage.

If city officials drove economy cars, how many homeless people could we house, feed, clothe, heal, educate? If the rich golfers melted down their solid gold golf clubs and tees, how many children could go to the dentist to get fillings? If the money for advertising to promote Cheetos were redistributed, how many children would get hot meals in the schools? If the billions spent on law enforcement were redistributed to the schools, how many children could earn a living?

Yet each year our churches preach to us about the glories of personal deprivation so we can be nearer to god. Each year we pay taxes to a government that would deprive us of Medicaid, Social Security and education, while they waste billions more dollars on spy missions, satellites and genocide. And, each year we train ourselves: Accept the deprivations that cause us to suffer by choosing to further deprive ourselves of some simple treat that gives us pleasure in this world of pain.

So this year I resolve to live my life with a new fervor, seeking to create a new vision. No, I do not mean NAFTA. No, I do not mean opening the rice market in Japan. No, I do not mean another tax on cigarettes. No, I do not mean building the world's largest McDonald's in China to surpass the one in Russian. No, I do not mean building "state of the art" prisons. No, I do not mean finding a way to provide more bodyguards, more luxurious automobiles, to government officials. No, I do not mean using less white-out.

What I mean is a new vision that makes deprivation an obsolete word. I mean a new vision that makes governments extinct. I mean a vision that includes every person as a viable, integral part of the whole. I resolve to find



ways to radically alter the way in which we make choices.

I resolve to create something new in the vacant lots of the old. I want to carefully inspect each structure of the system and tear down those that are dangerous to us as a people, a world. I want to use my creative energy to manifest generosity and to eliminate

deprivation, to make peaceful constructions and to eliminate destruction, to bring healing harmony and to eliminate avarice. I want to manifest a vision that is very simple, that ensures that every person in the world gets the \$12 billion a year to have adequate food, housing, clothing, education and health care, and even some ice cream.

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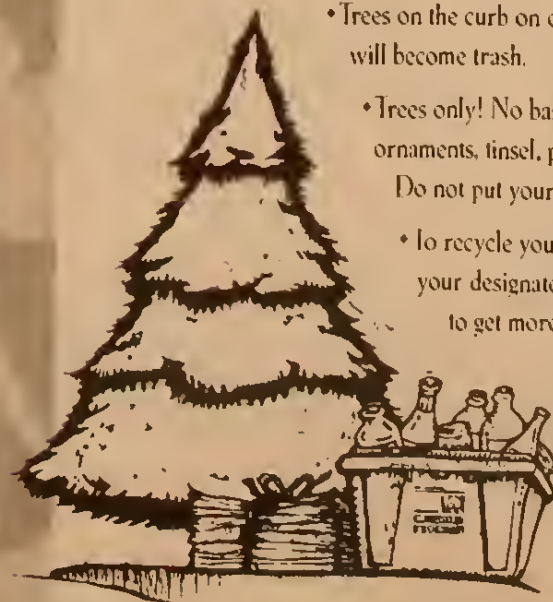
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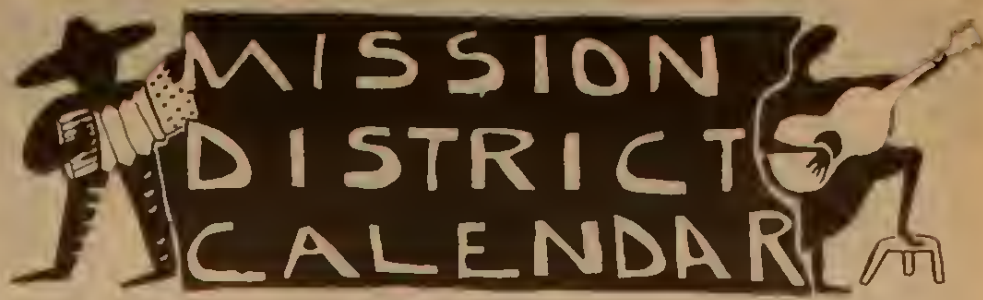
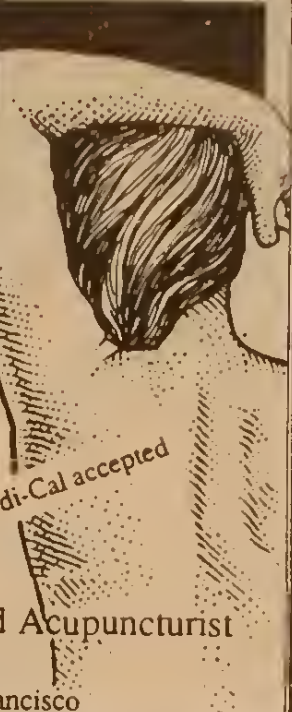
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SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

**Rub Off the Old Year** - Rubbing off a dance performance by Phd. aspirant Chelsea Bailey, wine maker Aaron Noble and art Maven Marshall Weber. Each performer rigorously planned his or her component without the knowledge of the others for what is intended to be a nice hit of serendipitous entertainment but could be just plain chaos. To find out show up at A.T.A. 992 Valencia St. 4 p.m. and bring \$2. Call 824-3890.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

**Affordable Opera** - The Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble performs Tchaikovsky's one act opera *Iolanta* for the reasonable price of \$8 for adults and \$3 for seniors and kids. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 3:00 p.m. Call 647-6015. Also plays on January 9 and 16 at 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

**Dyke Dick in Dracland** - Author Barbara Wilson reads from *Trouble In Transylvania* in which Lesbian detective Cassandra Reilly sleuths it up in Eastern Europe. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7:30 p.m., free. Call 282-9246.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

**Eight Night Live Media Collage** - Transcendental collective effort of a number of young artists offers music ranging from the Lance Manion Orchestra's suburban 90's folk rock to Gigs & Co., woman powered alternative sounds; dance choreographed by Amanda Goldman; spoken word by Chris Schnieders and the Mysterious Trance-o-mancers; comedy by Kathleen Fontaine, Tom Burns and Joey Lupin; plus many more acts they'll be more than happy to tell you about if you call 285-4880. Diesel Cathedral 3178 17th St. (between Shotwell and South Van Ness, you can find it if you try and no it's not the gas station), 8:00 p.m., \$4. Performances 1/6 - 1/9 and 1/13 - 1/16.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

**Spanish Yerse** - Latin American poetry reading at Pena Del Sur 2870 22nd St., 8:30 p.m., free. Call 550-1101.

**First National Church of the Exquisite Panic Inc. Blood Frying and Eating Ritual** - For five bucks you can watch Church founder Robert Delford Brown fry and eat his own blood (probably not all of it) and explain what all of this has to do with Spinoza. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m. Call 824-3890 for all the gory details. Cliff Notes on Spinoza available at Walden Books.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

**Bye Bye Bedlam, Happy Roving** - Those benefit playing veterans the Bedlam Rovers need a benefit of their own to help pay the expenses of their five week European tour. Performing with the Rovers will be local favorites A Subtle Plague and Lisa Pally. Komotion 2779 16th St., 10 p.m., \$5. Call 861-6423.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

**Jerks for Jordan** - Annual "Fools Not Bums Banquet, features a six hour reading from the works of Dan Quayle and that nice Serbian presidential guy whose name's so hard to spell, followed by the belching contest semi-finals. Meet at the swings in Dolores Park at 6pm. Ask for Mario.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

**War Chorus** - Author Susan Griffin talks about her book *A Chorus of Stones: The Private Life of War* which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7:30 p.m., free. Call 282-9246.

**Peace Focus** - Elsie Young Author of *Keepers of History: Women and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* and Barbara Lubin, Director of the Middle East Children's Alliance talk about the role of women in the Middle East peace process and the transcendence of "androcentric" nationalism. Old Wives Tales 1009 Valencia St., 8:00 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

**What Does It Mean To Be Green?** - The Mission Greens, the locally acting element of the globally thinking Green Party, invites you to a strategy session to plan out the Mission Green agenda for 1994 and, time permitting, the millennium. New College 777 Valencia St. Room 6, 7:00 p.m., free.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

**Healing Session** - Performance/discussion on creativity and healing with singer Judith May, painter Adriana Diaz, Margot Silk Forrest, editor of *Healing Woman*. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., 8:00 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

**Upsurge** - Jazz/Poetry performance by Raymond Nat Turner's Upsurge. Small Press Traffic 3599 24th St., 8 p.m., \$4. Call 285-8394

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

**Too Lurid for Your Living Room** - Screening of *Erotica San Francisco*. Episodes of a show Viacom decided was too explicit for even the public access channel and booted off the air. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

**Pepper and Flores** - Poetry reading and talk by Margot Pepper and Miguel Angel Flores. Pena Del Sur 2870 22nd St., 8:30 p.m., \$2. Call 550-1101.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

**May The Force Be With The Ewoks** - Fat Chance Belly Dance, Second skin, Mudwimin and Tilt perform to benefit Epicenter Women's Outreach Coalition (EWOK).s There will also be speakers from A Safe Place, a women's shelter and Defending Ourselves. Komotion 2779 16th St., 9 p.m., \$5. Call 861-6423.

**Cuban Troubadours** - Grupo Cotidiano and Ronald Rosario play Pena Del Sur 2870 22nd St., 9:30 p.m., \$5. Call 550-1101.

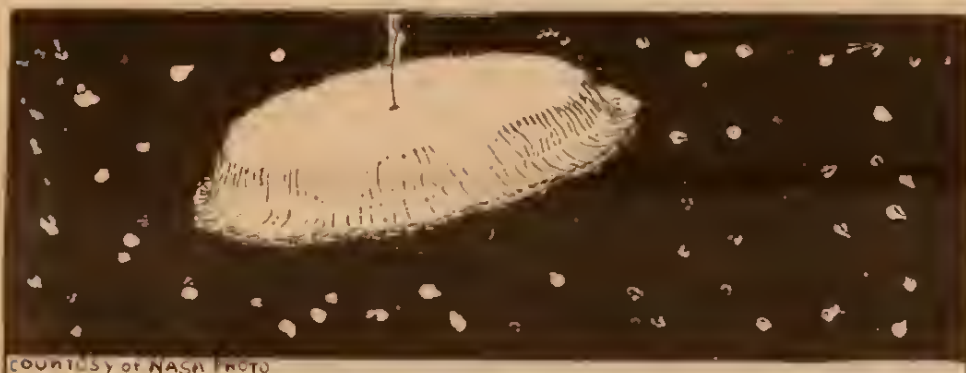
**Ivory Tickling** - Solo piano recital by Gregory Ballard. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 8:00 p.m., free. Call 647-6015

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

**Musical Adios** - to Chilean bound Jorge Zambrano featuring Rebeca Rodriguez, Enrique Ramirez, Ernesto Jimenez and others, plus Chilean empanadas. Pena Del Sur 2870 22nd St., 6 p.m., \$5. Call 550-1101.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

**World's Longest Food Fight Continues** - Food Not Bombs' Martin Luther King Birthday protest of the free eats group's treatment by the Jordan Administration. similar events are scheduled for Montreal, London, New York, and Los Angeles. High noon, City Hall, free. Call 330-5030.



COURTESY OF NASA PHOTO

# Mysterious Object Heading Toward Earth

See Page A2

By De Man

Space telescope shows  
object hurtling toward  
earth. Will it arrive in time?

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## TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

**Muckraking Eco-Warriors** - Tim Redmond and Marc Mowrey discuss their book Not In My Backyard: The People And Events That Shaped America's Environmental Movement, a history of grassroots environmental activism. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7:30 p.m., free. Call 282-9246.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

**Openly Gay** - Monthly gay and lesbian open reading of prose and poetry. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7:30 p.m., free. Call 282-9246.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

**That's Mighty White of You** - Reading and discussion with Susan Frankenberg, author of White Women, Race Matters: The Social Construction of Whiteness. Frankenberg examines the racialization of all aspects of interaction with emphasis on the role of feminists in ending racism. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., 8:00 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

**Sesame Treat** - Bookparty for Sesame with Jack Marshall. Small Press Traffic 3599 24th St., 8 p.m., free. Call 285-8394.

**PMS: Blood Sisters** - A 76 minute program of short films by San Francisco women including Greta Snider's Blood Story, Emily Cronbach's The Bee Meeting (based on the Sylvia Plath poem), and Gunvor Nelson's Time Being. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8 and 10 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

**One Weird Benefit for One Weird Zine** - J-Church, Los Huevos and Family Home Evening benefit concert for Alphabet Threat. Zine wrestling, coloring books and free haircuts are the non-musical highlights. Komotion 2779 16th St., 10:00 p.m., \$5. Call 861-6423.

**Nice Fresh Kuchar** - Three of the latest works by film and video maker George Kuchar including the UFO abductee epic ID Came From Inner Space. See George in person. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8 and 10 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

**Brazilian Soul** - Music by Mauro Correa and friends. Pena Del Sur 2870 22nd St., 9:30 p.m., \$5. Call 550-1101.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

**Nice Fresh Kuchar with Pancakes** - Same deal as Saturday the 22nd only with free pancakes. A.T.A. at noon, \$3.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

**Number One Son Inherits the Fortune Cookie Factory** - Bookparty for Charlie Chan Is Dead: An Anthology of Contemporary Asian American Fiction with editor Jessica Hagedorn and many of the contributors. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7:30 p.m., free. Call 283-9246.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

**Coffee Will Make You Black** - Is the title of this debut fictional work by noted dramatic reader April Sinclair. Sinclair's story of young black woman's sexuality is described as both harrowing and hilarious. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., 8:00 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

**Public Access Soup** - Since you can never figure out what's on the public access channel, you might as well catch this monthly showing of the best stuff. This month's selection includes the Lank and Earl Feel Good Show (shades of the Holy City Zoo), Generation X babes in a film review program called Chix on Flux and the mandatory attack on organized religion, Fire Sodom, Gomorrah and Malibu. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., free. Call

824-3890.

**Beast Ball** - Marie Carosello shows her award winning film on the treatment of laboratory animals, Tools for Research followed by speakers from In Defense of Animals, Fund for Animals and Action for Animals. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., 7:30 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

**Jazzy Talk, Talky Jazz** - Jazz vocalist Nenna Freelon and her band provide music, a question and answer session and a reception all for free. Community Music Center 544 Capp St. 5:30 to 6:30. Call 647-6015.

**Made in Mexico \ Hecho in Mexico** - Poems and songs by Alejandro Stuart. Pena Del Sur 2870 22nd St., 8:30 p.m., \$2. Call 550-1105.

**Couch Potato Salad** - Stuffy old KQED that hasn't done local programming since the Ford Administration and seems to show Are You Being Served at least six times a day may have finally woken from its dogmatic slumber or maybe somebody at A.T.A. has video tape of the Board of Directors biting the heads off live chickens. At any rate tonight's Living Room Festival features Artist's Television Access as a presenting organization and includes works by mystery woman Vidiata Zacatecana, everywhere man Kieth Knight, filmster extraordinaire Craig Baldwin and a bunch of other A.T.A. inmates. 11 p.m. Channel 9.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

**Dyke-a-billy Hoe Down and Dirty** - Dyke-a-billy cutting edge band the Bucktooth Varmits plus the Buckets in an evening or transsexual gender and genre bending that will leave some baffled and others relieved. Komotion 2779 16th St., 10 p.m., \$5. Call 861-6423.

**El Canto Del Pueblo** - Music by Rosa Marta Zarate and her Comanches. Pena del Sur 2870 22nd St., 9:30 p.m., \$5. Call 550-1101

## ONGOING

**SCUM, the Bobbit Pre-quel** - Before there was Lorena with her knife, there was Valerie with her gun. This play about Society for Cutting Up Men (SCUM) founder Valerie Solanis popping off a few rounds into Pop Art honcho Andy Warhol adheres to the lone gun woman theory and never mentions Dealy Plaza; which is probably just as well. Inspired by Bass Tickets guns for tickets program the producers are offering free tickets in exchange for any piece of original Warhol art. Solanis who shot Warhol to rid the world of great art which she considered offensive to women would be proud, if she weren't dead. Marylyn Monroe Memorial Theater, 96 Lafayette. Runs Thursday through Saturday at 9p.m. Call 552-3034.



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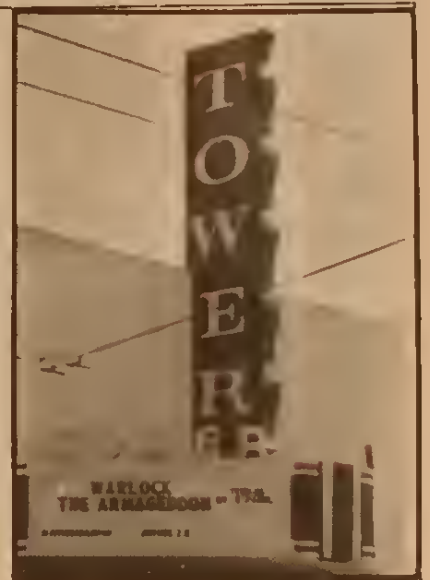
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## ROUND WORLD MUSIC REVIEW

by Robert Leaver



This past year was filled with many exciting new sounds and old sounds made fresh in handsome new CD packages. Here follow our picks of the year:

1) AFRICANDO - "Trovador" Vol. 1: This music had people dancing on at least three continents. Three Senegalese singers teamed up with a noted African producer and Malian arranger who assembled some of the finest musicians in Latin NYC to create a fresh contemporary African salsa record. Following a long tradition of Cuban influence in West Africa this record is by any measure hot — caliente!

2) ORCHESTRA BAOBAB - "Bamba": Actually a reissue of two records originally released in 1980 and 1981, this might as well be new because it was so obscure. A famous Senegalese band that helped shift the Cuban-influenced period of popular music to a more distinctly Senegalese sound. Featuring some of the finest singers, wild guitar flourishes, Afro-Latin percussion and sensual saxophone. A classic.

3) CUBA - "El Son Es Lo Mas Sublime": A CD collection of 16 classic songs from Cuba performed by 9 different groups, including El Guayabero, Grupo Changui de Guantanamo, Compay Segundo; as well as more accessible groups. Perhaps the best-sounding collection ever assembled of this classic material.

4) OUMOU SANGARE - "Ko Sira": This truly stunning young singer took the world by surprise last year with her "Mousoulou" release, which quickly became the biggest selling cassette in West African history and the best selling CD ever at Round World Music. Her second record is equally great,

accompanied by traditional stringed instruments, drums, percussion, and the less common violin and flute.

5) N.G. (NUEVA GENERATION) BANDA - "Cabaret Panoramico": Perhaps the single most popular band in Cuba today, this all-star group recorded this outing in Japan. Stylistically diverse, from mambo to cha-cha-cha to danzon, and at times downright funky, this big band can play. Their best recording to date. Features the smash it "Echale Limon."

6) NOUVELLE GENERATION DE LA REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE - "Dans Porokondo": This new Zaire band contains the core of what used to be Papa Wemba's Viva La Musica. Classic soukous with many unexpected elements. The tight powerful rhythm section allows the multitude of singers and guitarists to weave their harmonies and melodies in a loose but energetic style.

7) RYCO JAZZ - "Yo La!": This is the reunion record for the group that helped form the modern soukous sound. An all-star cast of guest musicians, including Manu Dibango on sax and Lokassa Ya Mbango on guitar, provides two exciting medleys of their hits and two new-style songs. A great live drummer fuels the beautiful vocals, superb guitar and sax.

8) SAM MANGWANA - "Rumba Music": One of the greatest African singers has a (mostly) new record of classic soukous with a salsa feel. Great vocals, guitar, real horns — this is African rumba at its finest.

9) ZAGAZOUGOU COUP - "Accordions Go to Abidjan": From the Ivory Coast

comes a massive group of drummers and singers with two accordions. Though not strictly roots — it sounds like it.

10) PAPA JUBE - "Liberayson": This Haitian exile in NYC tears it up with his politically charged songs using Haitian compass and rara, Jamaican reggae and ska, and American soul and rap. Sung mostly in Creole with a couple of songs in English, Papa Jube can toast with the best. Check out the English version of "Embargo".

### HONORABLE MENTION

LOS VAN VAN - "Azucar" (CUBA)

BOUKMAN EKSPERYANS - "Kalfou Dangere" (HAITI)

WENGÉ MUSICA - "El Paris" (ZAIRE)

YONDO SISTER - "Deviation: Sexy Soukous" (ZAIRE)

BALLA ET SES BALLADINS - "Objectif Perfection" (GUINEE)

ETOILE DE DAKAR - "Absa Gueye" (SENEGAL)

AICHA KONE - "Mandingo Live" (IVORY COAST)

KITMO ORIENTAL - "Historia del Rumor Vol. 1 & 2" (CUBA)

CUBAN GOLD (CUBA)

BAABA MALL - "Tono" (SENEGAL)

THOMAS MAPFUMO - "Hondo" (ZIMBABWE)

COMPAKOLOR - "Les Stars du Compas" (HAITI)

PIER ROSIER & GAZOLIN - "Ultra Light" (ANTILLES)

TIMBALADA (BRAZIL)

Soca Carnival '93 (TRINIDAD)





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# THE NEW MISSION MUSE

by Frank Deadbeat

The brilliant poem I wrote for last month's issue of the News — "How The Mayor Stole Christmas" — was so well-received by all three of my readers that I, Frank Deadbeat, have resolved upon this new year to begin a new career — as a POET. And why not? Every under-employed cafe-lizard in the Mission who isn't in a band calls him-or-herself a "poet", and I hate to feel left out. Which is not to say that I fit in with the local poetry scene; I mean, I'm not an erotic dancer, not a transsexual, not a vampire — hell, I don't even have a tattoo! Nor can I claim allegiance to the boho-beatnik-hippie school of "poetics" that's still alive and preaching in this town. So what qualifies me to be a poet? Sheer genius, my friends. Sheer Jack Michelinesquely egomaniacal genius.

Resolving to be a poet of the old school — tweedy, elbow-patched, wearing an ascot tie, blowing soap bubbles out of a meerschaum pipe — I sit at my roll-top desk and gaze Byronically out my grimy window at the weed-grown, beer-can-littered back yard, imagining it to be the English countryside beloved by Keats and Wordsworth. I await my muse. She seems to be a running a little late today. I drink a glass of cheap red wine to hasten her arrival; then another, and another...still no muse. What gives?

I think about the world's great poems for inspiration; to invoke Erato, I recite the opening lines of the greatest poems I know, like: "April is the cruellest month" — "I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness" — "There once was a girl from Nantucket" — and still my creative juices won't flow. I try to remedy the situation with more bardic juice, more wine, recalling A.E. Houseman's classic observation:

"Malt does more than Milton can  
To justify God's ways to man."  
How right he was — be it malty beer, or the

equally beloved grape.

After another six or seven bottles I feel like I am on the verge of a true Blakean vision. Two more sips, and for a moment I believe I'm in communication with the ghost of Coleridge.

"In Xanadu did Kubla Khan

A stately late-night snack decree:

'Spread smegma on a cracker, Jeeves,  
And call it Kubla Brie'."

I cross the lines out as soon as I write them, disgusted at my inability to wax delectable. Looking out my window at the yard I see two copulating dogs. I write: "My love is like a cold, cold nose"... cross out the line. WHERE IS MY GENIUS MUSE, GOD DAMMIT? Maybe what I need is something stronger than wine. I go to the refrigerator, poke a hole in it with a letter opener and suck the freon out through a straw. Almost immediately I experience the unmistakable sensation that I have been kicked in the ass, and hard. I spin around to see a skinny, scabby, wild-eyed chick standing there in a white toga and black motorcycle boots, hands on her hips, shaking her head at me. Green snakes writhe in her dyed-black hair.

I fall to my knees before her. "Are—are you—?"

"Erato, the muse of poetry? Not quite." She lights a clove cigarette and blows smoke in my face. "Actually, I'm just a local muse — the muse of the Mission — and I've come to tell you, Frank Deadbeat, and a thousand other wannabes, to quit this nonsense about being a 'poet'. All you do is make it harder for real poets to be heard."

"B-but I wanna hang out in cafes and and give readings and be cool! Just give me one great poem — just one! — and I promise I'll never bother you again!"

She smiles, puts her cigarette out on my forehead and begins to recite (in mockingly mellifluous tones):

"Roses are red  
Violets are blue —  
To pretend you're a poet,



Here's what to do:  
Hang out in the Mission  
And drink cheap red wine;  
Attend open mikes  
And don't ever rhyme.  
Make sure that your ego  
Is bigger than Jack's,  
And make up in **LOUDNESS**  
What your talent may lack."

I wake up hours later on the kitchen floor, my vomit-filled beret beside me like a bowl of cold porridge. What a dream I had! That

freon packs quite a kick, let me tell you.

Getting up, I pour myself a glass of red, sit at my desk and wait for inspiration. Ah, the life of a poet.



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